

June

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS 2013**



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects



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Nothing like illustrated song slides showing what June is all about!

More About Tricolor Process in April Epub

April E-pub

From Anton Orlov

Last summer, when I was traveling in The Photo Palace Bus and visited Buffalo NY, I actually held a few of Gregory Ives' triple positive slides in my hands.

From Jack Judson

In regard to the Orlov article, who is Gregory Ives?

Do know of the Ives from NY who was one of the inventors of the 3 color photo process, but he was Frederick Ives. Have an original Ives photochromscope projector, and the six original wood mounted slides on display and several pubs.

At the Smithsonian National Museum of American History are six magnificent never-before published images and extremely rare color photographs by photographer / innovator Frederick Eugene Ives taken after the "Great Quake" and fire of April 1906 in San Francisco.

The colored photos were donated by Ives' son, Herbert E. Ives, but discovered decades later by a National Museum of American History volunteer, Anthony Brooks, while he was cataloging the collection for digital filing. The pictures shown were taken in October, six months after the great earthquake.

Boston Massachusetts July 10-13, 2014



SAVE THE DATES!

The Planning Committee is actively seeking suggestions for programs and, as in the past, the sky's the limit! Presentations on any aspect of magic lantern history, showmanship, and related areas are encouraged and welcomed. As at least part of the convention, we're planning an in-depth look at Pre-Cinema, those devices and techniques that led to the development the motion picture and hope to draw upon members and others with expertise in kinetic toys, the panorama, early animation, and...of course...the role of the lantern itself. We'd love to hear from you; please send all suggestions to Chairman Balzer at DickBalzer@gmail.com.

From: Dan Millis

I'm contacting you in hopes that you could take a few minutes and look at a few photos of a vintage Magic Lantern that I recently inherited from my Father. I didn't even know this unit existed - until I dug it out of the closet after his passing. I have taken the liberty to attach several close-up photos below - for your review/examination. I have searched the web and have not been able to find anything regarding my lantern - "TCA DRESDEN". I'm hopefully that you will be somewhat familiar with this projector and can pass along some information as to its age, etc. It would be GREATLY APPRECIATED Ron if you would take a look and give me your thoughts. If you can't help me, maybe you could refer me to someone in your organization that could possibly?

As you can see, the unit is stamped on the front/side "TCA DRESDEN". No other I.D. markings. No expandable bellows as you can see. Back part of unit slides in/out.

The unit itself appears to be carefully/securely mounted on a OAK wood foundation/platform. It even has asbestos(?) strips in place where the hot metal surface comes in contact with the wood.

It was found in this rather well constructed wooden box. The unit fits perfectly inside this wooden storage box and inside the box is many specifically created places/spots where various slide holders can be precisely placed/stored. It came with about 8 different holders - all of which fit inside its wooden box. A very well designed box I must say. The box - to me - does not look original to this unit...but I could be mistaken.

I'm a bit perplexed as to its existing electrical "plug" which obviously - doesn't fit any American electrical outlet - to my knowledge.

Question about my Magic Lantern



Maybe it is set-up for foreign/European electrical outlet/service?

I'm not sure what I'm going to do with this as of yet. The wife is not too excited about adding it to our present decor....but I'm working on her - especially if I can tell her a story about its history/origination, etc.

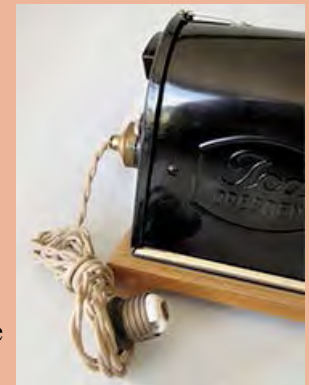
Thanks in advance Ron for any help/information you can pass along to me or ref me to someone else possibly. I certainly do look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Regards,
Dan
California

From Ron Easterday

Hi Dan, thanks for contacting us. I have to say that I am not familiar with this lantern, and a very quick check of some of my catalogs do not help me at the moment, but there were so many lantern manufactures. Your photos and description are most helpful, and it looks to be in great condition. Any chance it was repainted at some time, or just packed away and never used? The box looks great, original or not.

The one thing I believe that I can answer is the cord - the end is likely designed to screw into a standard incandescent light bulb socket in place of the bulb - that was a common method for cords back when there were few power receptacles, just a single overhead light socket in a room.



We have a monthly email newsletter we send to all our members - perhaps one of them can help identify. We just issued the May e-pub, so the next will be June 1. I can forward this to a few folks in the meantime and see if they can help advise. In the interim, hope you can keep it safe and in the family.

continued next page

Question about my Magic Lantern Continued

**From
Jack Judson**

In 1909, four existing camera companies in an around Dresden, joined together, to form international camera a. Thus ICA in Dresden. One of them was/ is very famous, Carl Zeiss, which became dominant.



The projection device, of which I have one, is likely from around the 1920's to 1940's.

Hope that helps Dan. All the best, Jack

Dan, I am so pleased to help. Here at the only museum in the world solely dedicated to the history of the magic lantern, we always delighted to help someone.

Our lantern is similar. Yes, it is international camera (which stands for association in Germany).

These lanterns are not too common, having seen a few in the years, but not usually highly collectible. Due largely to their relative modernity.

But all that said before and now, this is a fine lantern in excellent condition, and I think a nice collectible.

Best regards, Jack Judson



**From
Dan Millis**

Dear Jack....

Ron (@MLS) was nice enough to forward the photos/email of my lantern that I recently inherited from my Father. You stated that it was a "ICA" lantern and NOT a

TCA. That makes sense and I wanted to personally thank you for taking the time to look at my photos and express your opinion.

Ron said that you had a "ICA" in the museum. Does it resemble the one that I have by chance? Are these units fairly common? You said that you thought my unit was produced around 1920-1940.....? Does ICA stand for International Camera Association?

Thanks again Jack for your help and any additional information about my lantern would be MOST appreciative.....

Best Regards,

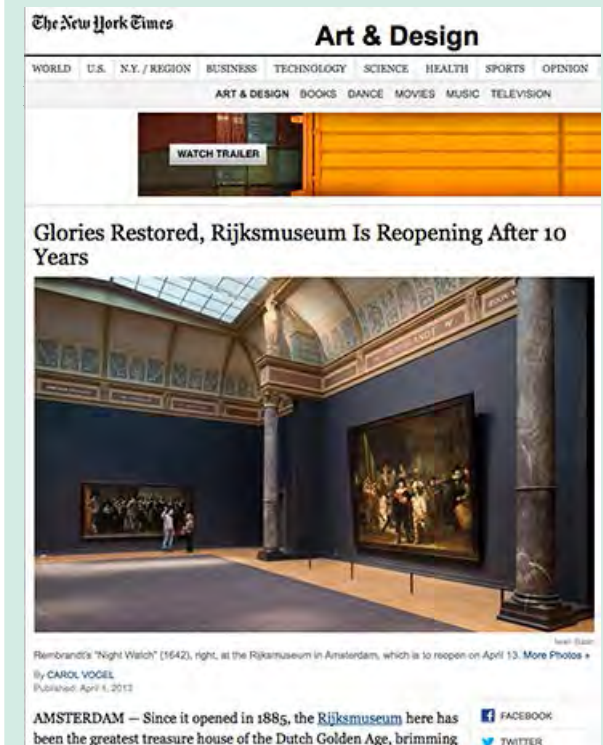
Dan

Glories Restored

From Barbara Zucker

Carol Vogel reported in her lengthy article "Glories Restored, Rijksmuseum Is Reopening After Ten Years," The New York Times, April 2, 2013 that "Aside from the traditional galleries, there are rooms of curiosities, like dollhouses, and 18th century ship models, and one gallery is devoted to a room with 18th century magic lanterns."

The article included several color images of various galleries though none of the magic lanterns but maybe they will be featured somewhere else, possibly even on-line.



www.nytimes.com/2013/.../glories-restored-rijksmuseum-is-reopening-after

Member Activity

From Esther Morgan-Ellis

Greetings! I would like to let members of the Society know that my doctoral dissertation, "Organist-Led Community Singing in the American Picture Palace, 1925-1933," is now freely available for download at www.morgan-ellis.net/writing. As you might guess, theater sing-alongs in this era were conducted with the use of glass lantern slides, many of which are reproduced in my dissertation. An article outlining the use of slides in this context is forthcoming in the Gazette, but I thought that some readers might be interested in learning more about the practice of community singing in early movie theaters.

My research was supported by the Society, for which I could not be more thankful. Also, I would like to belatedly report that the 2012 convention was absolutely wonderful. I haven't had that much fun in years, and I can't wait for the next one.

All the best,
Esther

Response to INQUIRY About Dating Slide Mats

From Tom Rall

Dan,

Interesting that you should ask on page 5 of our society newsletter received today about the mats on your slides, which have now passed through the hands of two society members, Pat Kulaga and myself, and the balance of which now reside, at least temporarily, with a third member, Helena Zinkham at the Library of Congress.

The mats, in this case, might or might not be a good clue. From what I remember, they were common, graph-lined mats which could be shaped by the slide maker (pre exacto knife) to crop images as desired. Some such mats bore a copyright date in the late 1890s (of a William Garrison if my memory is correct) and were commercially marketed and in use for at least the next 15 or 20 years. They seemed to appeal to serious amateur and independent professional photographers (commercial slide makers often used distinctive mats which branded their businesses) and often appear on camera club slide circulations, whose members shared work with each other during a similar time period. The mats overlapped into at least the first decade of autochrome production, and probably longer. I've seen similar mats used by Alfred Stieglitz (George Eastman House has some of his examples online) and other members of the New York Camera Club.

Tom Rall



Thanks for the info Tom. I do know for sure that the slides are Agfa Color Plates. I am now trying to narrow down the time period when they were made. I know that Agfacolor Plates were in production between 1916 and about 1932. I also know that they were not available in the United States until at least 1922. That gives us a 10 year time period.

Dan Smith.

From Tom

Thanks, Dan. Those type mats were probably used on various color process slides. Perhaps you could do an article on how to distinguish the Agfa from the autochrome? That would be much appreciated, I'm sure, by those of us who are interested in such things.

INQUIRY for Master's Thesis for Visual and Critical Studies

I am writing to inquire about a few magic lantern-related issues and hope that you can offer some suggestions. I am working on a Master's thesis in Visual and Critical Studies at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. My research is about the magic lantern and pornographic lantern slides, which lanternists Mervyn Heard and Vanessa Davids have written about in 2005. I intend to write directly to Mervyn Heard, but thought I would reach out to your group as well.

For my graduate research project, I am seeking erotic or risqué lantern slides from any time period. My research started from reading articles by Mervyn Heard and Vanessa Davids, and I hope to expand upon their initial research. Please contact Emily Holmes at eholmes@cca.edu if you have slides, especially digital reproductions, or relevant information that might fit in this category.

Sincerely,
Emily Holmes eholmes@cca.edu

Please share any information
you have about this inquiry
also send to
LARRY

"Antique Photographica - The Collector's Vision"

This comprehensive study of antique cameras and photography form 1840-1940 includes over 500 never before published examples of photographic equipment and ephemeras.



Book Details

ISBN:
978-0-7643-4428-2
Size: 9 x 12
Illustrations:
567 color &
b/w photos
Page Count:
288
Hard Cover
Price: \$69.99

Press
release
for our
new book.

Regards,
Bryan Ginns

From Brain Pickings

by Maria Popova

Brain Pickings is the brain child of Maria Popova, an interestingness hunter-gatherer and curious mind at large, who also writes for Wired UK and The Atlantic, among others, and is an MIT Futures of Entertainment Fellow. She has gotten occasional help from a handful of guest contributors.

How Lantern Slides Revolutionized Education: A Protein Story

How Lantern Slides Revolutionized Education: A Protein Story

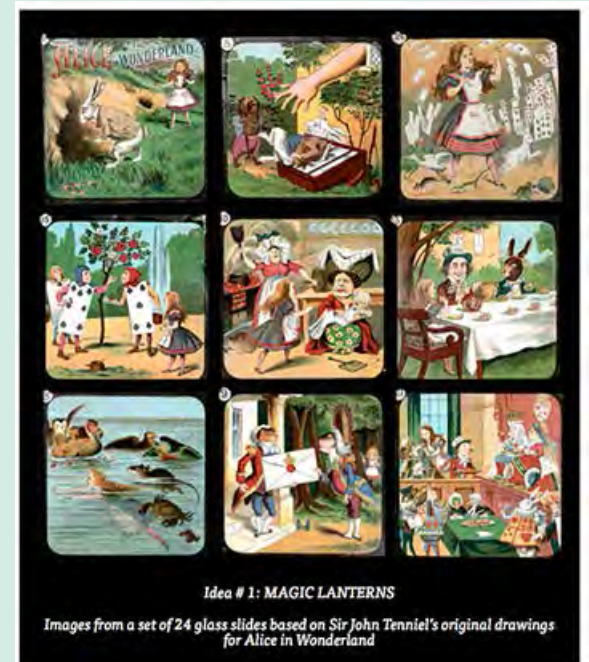
by Maria Popova

When an old entertainment technology brought the world to the lecture hall, bridging science and art.

We've already seen how the humble lantern slide changed photography and storytelling, but little credence is given to how profoundly it changed education and the academic world. In the altogether excellent biography *I Died for Beauty: Dorothy Winch and the Cultures of Science* (UK; public library) — which tells the story of a pioneering and controversial female mathematician who helped shed light on the molecular structure of proteins, was the first woman to receive a Doctor of Science degree from Oxford University, and embodied the cross-pollination of disciplines two decades before C. P. Snow's famous lament about the "two cultures" — Marjorie Senechal writes:



Alice in Wonderland, in 24 Vintage Magic Lantern Slides



“ These optical lanterns contained the principal elements later found in film projectors: a source of illumination; a mechanism for moving frames through the light-proofed casing; and lenses for condensing and projecting images onto a distant screen. As an early form of mass entertainment, they also anticipated the storytelling experiments of later filmmakers.

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2013/01/21/how-lantern-slides-revolutionized-education/>

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2012/10/24/100-ideas-that-changed-photography/>

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2012/05/28/alice-in-wonderland-magic-lantern-slides/>

Member Activity

From Erkki Huhtamo

I would like to inform you about an interview the MIT Press blog published this morning. I wonder if it would be worth sharing this with the society members?

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/blog/qa-erkki-huhtamo>

All the best,

Erkki



Q&A with Erkki Huhtamo

Posted by: Katie Heasley

[Previous Blog Post](#)[Next Blog Post](#)

We recently shared a few images from Erkki Huhtamo's *Illusions in Motion*, and the UCLA Daily Bruin took a peek inside Huhtamo's office and interviewed him about his artifact collection in a neat video. Today, we're pleased to share our extensive Q&A with Huhtamo about *Illusions in Motion*. Enjoy!

Magic Lantern Slide Collection

From Kentwood Wells

Budding animators invited to beetle along to Perth Museum and Art Gallery

If you're interested in animation and the world around you, Perth Museum & Art Gallery has the perfect combination at an upcoming free event.

On Saturday 18th May 2013, between 10:30am and 12:30pm, and between 1:30pm and 3:30pm, there will be the chance to discover the wealth of intriguing collections at the Museum and Art Gallery, many of which cannot be displayed year-round, and join professional filmmaker Andrew Low to create a short animated film about some of the collections.

The focus for the sessions will be on three of the collections in particular:

- The British beetle collection, which features around 2000 specimens of beetle, with most collected in Scotland and other parts of the UK.
- The Margaret Morris collection, donated to the Fergusson Gallery in 2010, which reveals a huge range of information about the dancer and artist who was JD Fergusson's life-long partner.

• The magic lantern slide collection, which brings together a blend of local, national and international scenes, early photographs of objects in the Museum & Art Gallery's collections, scientific lecture slides, not to mention colourful and amusing animations and nursery rhyme scenes.

Participants will spend the morning creating their own unique beetle and then in the afternoon animate their insect in a magic lantern wonderland, using the dance styles of Margaret Morris as inspiration. All the beetles created will feature in Andrew Low's final film, to be screened at the Museum on Thursday 13th June.

Families and people of all ages are invited to come and join the fun.

To book your place or for further information, please call 01738 477834 or email artsdev@pkc.gov.uk
Last modified: 08 May 2013, 11.45AM

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/5990/Budding-animators-invited-to-beetle-along-to-Perth-Museum-and-Art-Gallery>



From Adam Fisher

Hello my name is Adam Fisher. I was looking for someone who might know about my J. Duboscq A Paris 914 magic lantern, and slides. I apologize I don't know much about it. What I do know is that it is missing the carbon arc piece, the base has been poorly repaired. The piece itself appears to be in very good condition. I ran my finger around the inside of the chimney and there was no soot so I not sure if it has ever been fired. One of the lens on the doors is cracked. As for the slides, I have about 25 different ones. I have around 10 astronomy ones unknown maker, I have one depicting some abstract waves made my Carpenter & Westley, a few that depict historical things like Lord Rosse's Telescope made by James W. Queen and Co. Opticians, and some historical scenes like Libby Prison made by N.B. Chamberlains Sons Boston.

I have attached some pictures for you to see. Is the lantern in good or bad condition. Also I was wondering how much is the price affected because I don't have the carbon arc, and can you still find them? Any information that you could give me would be appreciated thank you.

"adam fisher" <fisherfishing64@yahoo.com>

**Please share any information
you have about this inquiry
also send to
LARRY**

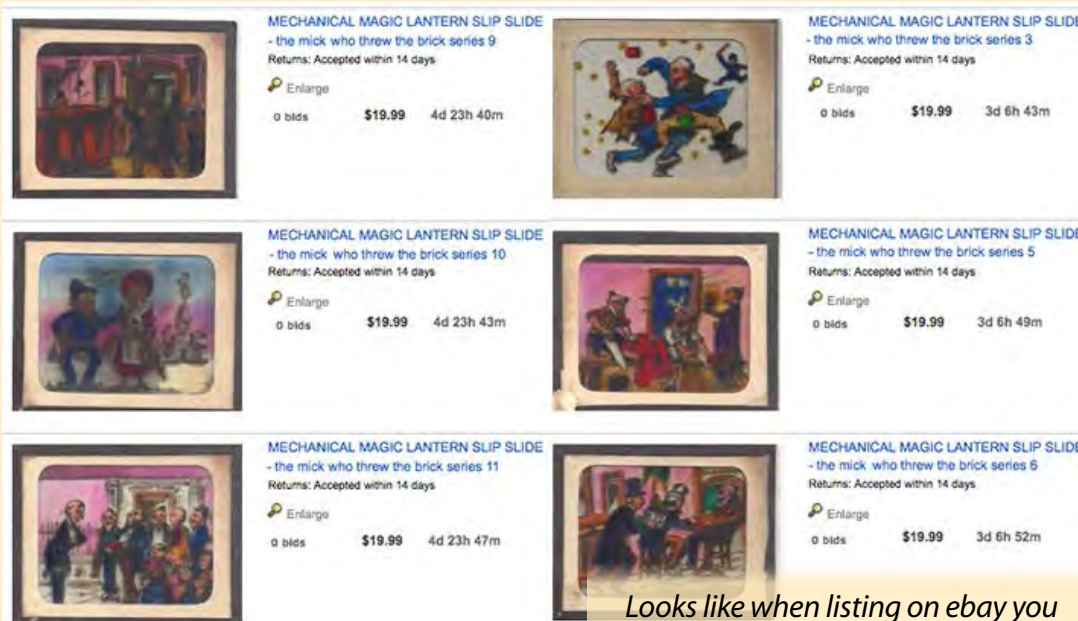
INQUIRY



As Seen On



Very Pricey Slides



COMPLETE ALBUM 1982 PORTUGUESE ART MONUMENTS
Magic Lantern 36 PHOTO Slides



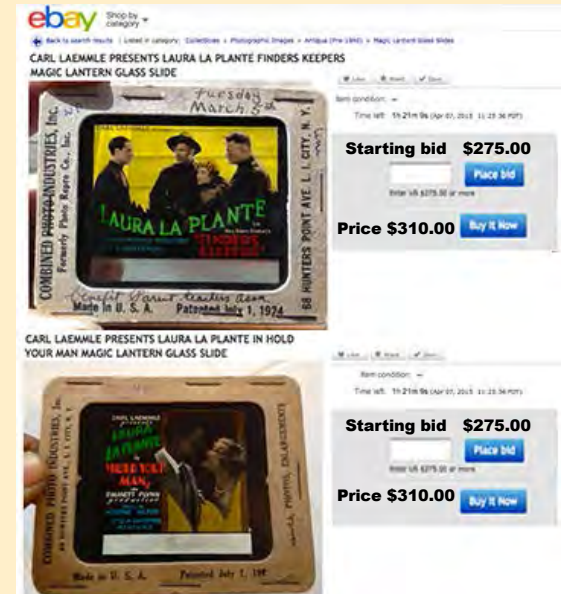
Starting bid: US \$14.00 [0 bids]
Shipping: \$10.00 Economy Shipping [See details]

Looks like when listing on ebay you don't have to know what the item is that you have up for bid... just use the terms like mechanical magic lantern slip slide (this must refer to the movement of slipping the slide into the carrier)

*Another method
List your 35mm slides
as magic lantern slides*



Big price for a art school lantern slide



Cardboard mount must add to high cost of these slides

Lantern Show on Masterpiece Theatre Series “Mr. Sheldrige”

From Shel Izen



I obviously want to alert you to a very cool segment in the 8th episode of the PBS show “Mr. Sheldrige”. Shackleton gives a lecture at the department store, and uses the Magic Lantern. First sight of the lantern is at the 33 minutes into the film. The show follows soon after.



<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/watch-online/>



Coming Events



JUNE
Sunday
June 23 Noon
At the Shapes
SeaTac, WA

*If your in the neighborhood
please join us!*

If you need
directions click [here](#)
LARRY

A Big Thank You to the following:

Ron Easterday
Adam Fisher
Bryan Ginns
Emily Holmes
Erkki Huhtamo
Shel Izen
Jack Judson
Dan Millis
Esther Morgan-Ellis
Tom Rall
Dan Smith
Kentwood Wells
Barbara Zucker

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?
If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



The 2012 issues of The Magic Lantern Gazette are now available to the public online through the San Diego State University Library <http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pubs/gazette>

All issues are in full color, with illustrations that were originally color, but printed in black and white, now converted back to color, although in some cases, image quality is not as good as in the printed version. The winter issue includes two pages of corrections to John Davidson's article on light sources for magic lanterns. A printed version of the corrections will be mailed to all members with the next issue so it can be inserted into the Winter issue.

The link above <http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pubs> will take you to the page accessing the Gazette and the Bulletin as well as the Index.

The link as published currently takes you only to the Bulletin.

Many thanks -

Rob



Please note the following revisions and additions to the

Spring 2013 Directory dated April 1, 2013

Welcome Renewing Members

Balzer, Richard

92 High Street
Brookline MA 02445-7718
DickBalzer@gmail.com
Interests: Lanterns; Literature.

Pease, Bradford

459 Village Dr.
Bethlehem PA 18018-6350 USA
Phone: (610) 625-5048
Email Address: bkpease@entermail.net
Interests: Lanterns; Marcy Sciopticon.

Gilbert, Ray & Pat

29 Church Lane
Barton-Under-Needwood Burton-On-Trent
DE13 8HU United Kingdom
Phone: 01283-713013
Email Address: pat.the_gilberts@btinternet.com
Interests: Lanterns; Slides; Literature.
Other: Buy, Sell, Trade

Corrections/Updates to the Directory

Hall, Bob and Sue

Corrected home phone number:
(253) 905-8738

Outland, Breck

Change in email address:
boutland@tx.rr.com